

Hello, my name is Madeline Sadlowski and I am from the Southington FFA Chapter. At the age of eight I was hit with a passion for horses. That quickly deepened into a passion for all animals. I spend the majority of my spare time working to care for animals and learning a great deal about how to keep them healthy. By the time I was in eighth grade, I couldn't wait to fill out my application to get in the VOAG program at Southington High School. When I toured the facility, I knew it was exactly where I belong.

My mom always tells me how lucky I am to know exactly where my interests lie and sees that I am extremely passionate about the program. VOAG is the reason I love to go to school each day. My peers in VOAG all have similar stories of why they competed to get into this most specialized program. What I find even more amazing is just how much my interests expand, the longer I participate. I am not only interested in the animal sciences and vet tech classes, but find myself intrigued by other aspects such as natural resources and agriculture machinery. The teachers of the VOAG program are so knowledgeable and passionate about the program, that it becomes contagious and you soon find yourself interested in doing things you never thought you could do. For me this happened many times already and I am only in tenth grade. I am currently the Sophomore Vice President of the Southington FFA Chapter. I have competed in the horse judging contest and our team won states and is now qualified to go to nationals. There is no other program in education that I have found teachers so engaged in each individual's development. They truly make us want to be better students and community members. The leadership, public speaking and team building skills I am learning as part of the VOAG FFA program will benefit me every day of my life. The Southington VOAG program is not only important to me personally, but I believe it is extremely important to our community, country, and world. Learning about agriculture and building a more sustainable food source can change the future.

On a personal note, when you make the final decision, I want you to remember me, a sixteen year old girl standing before you in her FFA uniform. I proudly wear this as a reminder of the tradition and opportunities it represents for me and all the future ambitious, and enthusiastic FFA members your decision will impact. "Please increase funding for these agriscience programs so that more students like myself can benefit from these great programs like I have."

Thank You!